**Status of Ranchi-Vijayawada N.H.**

†368. SHRI RUDRANARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of proposed Ranchi-Vijayawada National Highway as on date;

(b) by when this work is likely to be completed; and

(c) the approach of Governments of those States towards this project through which this highway would be passing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) The proposal of the Government of Orissa to declare the Ranchi-Vijayawada road as National Highway was received but the Planning Commission has suggested to develop this route to two-lane highway as an integrated project by the Central and State Governments through various available funding options. In this regard, Chief Minister of Orissa has forwarded a proposal to the Prime Minister on 12.06.2006 suggesting tentative funding options within a time frame of 3 to 4 years and sought formal approval of the Central Government. It is too early to indicate the date of completion of this mega project.

Out of the total length of 1673 km, entire length of about 454 km. of this route falling in Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand and about 227 km in Orissa is already National Highways. Remaining 992 km is part of state highways and rural roads. Central Government is developing these National Highways depending upon traffic need and availability of funds.

**Promotion of waterways**

†369 DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the increasing pressure on the sources of fuel can be decreased by promoting traffic through waterways in the country;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

---

†Originai notice of the question was received in Hindi.